THREAT TO PROPERTY

In an address delivered to the Carbondale Area Chamber of Commerce in July of 1981, Major Lee White, Manager of the Mid-Valley Industrial Park, offered a plan to the citizens of Carbondale to attract new industries to Carbondale. The specifics of that plan were reported in a page-one article in THE CARBONDALE NEWS of July 22, 1981, entitled "Carbondale will 'die' unless changes are made." The following report of Major White's proposal with regard to Carbondale City Hall is from that newspaper article:

> "The people should be sick to death of the looks of the town!" White continued, "There's no enthusiasm. No pride. You must get pride. You must change your image."
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> When asked specifically what he disliked about Carbondale's appearance, White answered, "Well, the first thing I think of is City Hall. It's a disgrace. Someone should put a rope around it and pull it down! You have a lot of empty storefronts, but they can be filled if you get the economy turned around..."

When Major White's proposal with reference to Carbondale City Hall became generally known in the city of Carbondale, an interesting--and not unexpected--phenomenon took place. A group of Carbondale citizens rallied to the support of Carbondale City Hall, and formed a Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall.

This Committee is presently making a concerted effort, primarily on the local level, to raise the funds necessary to repair the roof, the outside walls, and the tower clock of Carbondale City Hall. This Committee has, thus far, raised only a fraction of the total sum of money that will be required to restore Carbondale City Hall to its former beauty. This Committee, in its efforts to raise the money necessary to restore Carbondale City Hall, is encountering a certain amount of opposition on the part of many citizens of Carbondale who believe that all buildings that are old should be torn down and replaced by new buildings. Many members of the opposition, of course, have never looked at the building and are completely unaware of the fact that Carbondale City Hall is an important building--on the local, state and national levels--and that it must be restored if the city of Carbondale is to once again get back on its feet economically.